

- operatively controlling said first apparatus in response to said first control signals when said first control signals and said first reference control signals equal each other; characterised in that, said method further comprises the following steps, which allows said first remote control device and said first apparatus to operatively control one or more second apparatus that are otherwise operatively responsive to respective second control signals from respective one or more second remote control devices;

- providing said first remote control device with additional operational functions, and corresponding third control signals, that respectively correspond to operational functions of said one or more second apparatus, said additional operational functions and third control signals being either selectively and/or permanently available;

- receiving and storing in said first apparatus, as part of an initialisation procedure and either in response to a request and/or as part of a predetermined sequence, said second control signals that have corresponding third control signals, said received second control signals being stored as second reference control signals in said storage medium;

- receiving said third control signals from said first remote control device;  
- receiving second reference control signals from said storage medium;  
- comparing said third control signals and said second reference control signals; and operatively controlling, by means of said second reference control signals, said one or more second apparatus, via said first apparatus, when said third control signals and said second reference control signals equal each other]

storing said second control signals in said first apparatus;

receiving the first control signals from the first remote control device at said first apparatus;

accessing said stored second control signals responsive to selected ones of said first control signals;

transmitting accessed second control signals to said second apparatus, wherein the first apparatus remotely controls the second apparatus responsive to selected ones of the first control signals from the first remote control device; and

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receiving, at said first apparatus, signals from the broadcast medium which are transmitted to said second apparatus as second control signals to remotely control the second apparatus.

[Please delete claims 2-22 without prejudice or disclaimer.]

[Please add the following new claims 23 - 40.]

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23. The method of claim 1, wherein said first apparatus remotely controls said one or more second apparatus.

24. A method according to claim 1, wherein said first apparatus is a set top box receiver.

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25. A method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more second apparatus include a video recorder and a television.

26. A method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more second apparatus include a sound system.

27. A method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more second apparatus include home automation apparatus.

28. A method according to claim 1, wherein said second control signals are received in response to a request from said first apparatus from said one or more second remote control devices.

29. A method according to claim 1, wherein said second control signals are received as part of a predetermined sequence from a portable storage medium.

30. A method according to claim 29, wherein said portable storage medium is a smartcard.

Sub 31. A method according to claim 1, wherein second control signals are received as part of a predetermined sequence from the broadcast medium.

32. A remotely controlled apparatus, operatively responsive to first control signals and signals from a broadcast medium, comprising:

first receiving means for receiving said first control signals from a first remote control device and second receiving means for receiving said signals from the broadcast medium;

storage means for storing second control signals associated with a second remotely controlled apparatus operatively responsive to said second control signals;

control means for accessing said stored second control signals responsive to selected ones of said first control signals;

transmitting means for transmitting said accessed second control signals to said remotely controlled apparatus, whereby the remotely controlled apparatus remotely controls the second remotely controlled apparatus,

wherein the transmitting means is further operative to transmit said accessed signals from the broadcast medium to said remotely controlled apparatus as second control signals, to remotely control the second remotely controlled apparatus.

33. The remotely controlled apparatus of claim 32, wherein said control means stores said second control signals in said storage means.

Sub 34. The remotely controlled apparatus of claim 32, wherein said receiving means receives said second control signals from the second remote control device.

35. The remotely controlled apparatus of claim 34, wherein the storage means comprises a smart card.

Sub 36. A remote control system comprising:

a first remotely controlled apparatus operationally responsive to first control signals associated with a first remote control device and signals associated with a broadcast medium;

a second remotely controlled apparatus operatively responsive to second control signals associated with a second remote-control device, wherein said first apparatus transmits said second control signals, to remotely control the second apparatus, responsive to selected ones of said first control signals as selected by said second control signals; and

transmits said signals associated with the broadcast medium, to remotely control the second apparatus.

37. The remote control system of claim 36 wherein the first remotely controlled apparatus comprises:

first receiving means for receiving said first control signals from a first remote control device and second receiving means for receiving said signals from the broadcast medium;

storage means for storing second control signals associated with a second remotely controlled apparatus operatively responsive to said second control signals;

control means for accessing said stored second control signals responsive to selected ones of said first control signals;

transmitting means for transmitting said accessed second control signals to said remotely controlled apparatus, whereby the remotely controlled apparatus remotely controls the second remotely controlled apparatus,

wherein the transmitting means is further operative to transmit said accessed signals from the broadcast medium to said remotely controlled apparatus as second control signals, to remotely control the second remotely controlled apparatus